

Diversity Week Celebration

Story and photos by Mark Kane

Diversity Week, held June 20 through 24 at the Clock Tower Complex, took place as a week-long event to combine all Special Emphasis Program observances into one week of education and celebration of the people of the Rock Island District, and their diverse cultures and to understand that all cultures share common values.

Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, Division commander, spoke at the Diversity Week kickoff and emphasized how important diversity is to our Division.

"To my mind, diversity is not merely the absence of discrimination; more fundamentally, it is the powerful presence of a sense of teamwork and community – one that brings all kinds of people from different backgrounds together, with the end result of creating a whole that is much greater than the sum of the individual parts," said Crear. "My challenge to you is be equally bold and energetic in bringing that kind of teamwork and community into play ... in making the Mississippi Valley Division a true house of diversity."

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- Adrienne Blackwell, Real Estate, and Doug Davis, Programs and Project Management, go over the results of who was voted out at the conclusion of the Survival workshop. The workshop split participants into two different groups and had them decide what individuals would be selected as the last surviving humans on Earth.
- Ron Deiss, Programs and Project Management, talks about his hand-carved spear fishing lures with Gail Clingerman, previously with Programs and Project Management, and Nicole McVay, Programs and Project Management, during the Talent Day portion of Diversity Week. The inset photo shows the hand-carved spear fisherman Deiss created.
- Judy Gooch, assistant lockmaster, Dresden Lock and Dam, speaks to District employees and attendees during the Diversity Week kickoff about the importance of diversity and her experiences with diversity in the workplace.
- The last food items are laid out as part of the Costa Rica cultural wall display that was located between the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center and the Office of Counsel. The display placed first in the Cultural Wall decorating competition, as well as tying with the Cameroon display for the people's choice award.
- Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, Division commander, plays a thumb harp during his visit to the Cameroon cultural wall display outside Information Management. The enlarged photo of the Cameroon native in the background set off the display that earned it first place in the people's choice award, tying only with the Costa Rica display.
- Robert Romic, Information Management, creates a handmade copper-wire tree during the Talent Day portion of Diversity Week. Romic displayed numerous versions of his wire creations.
- Amy Moore, Engineering Division, elaborates on how the District scores in regard to how diverse its employment numbers are during the Affirmative Employment Program for Managers workshop.
- Tracy Street, Programs and Project Management, points out a baby picture to student aides Kassie Keeney and Lindsay Bjerregaard, Programs and Project Management, that was part of her scrapbooking display during Talent Day.
- The dolls in the upper right and lower left hand corners are from the Ecuador doll display in the Cultural Wall Contest.

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